THE GENERA *PODISTRA* AND *PSEUDOABSIDIA* IN NORTH AMERICA (COLEOPTERA: CANTHARIDAE)[1]

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ABSTRACT

The *Podistra* group of the Cantharini in North America now consists of 3 species, 2 of which were previously listed under *Cantharis*, and the third is described here as new: *Podistra* (*Hemipodistra*) *insipida* (Fall), NEW COMBINATION for *Cantharis* (*Absidia*) *insipida* (Fall); *Pseudoabsidia sierrae* (McKey-Fender), NEW COMBINATION for *Cantharis sierrae* McKey-Fender; and *Pseudoabsidia sanbernardensis* Fender, NEW SPECIES, from Lake Arrowhead, California.

Fall (1907) described *Telephorus insipidus* from a single male collected in New Mexico. In his description he stated that all claws of the male were simple. McKey-Fender (1950) tentatively placed the species in the subgenus *Absidia* of the genus *Cantharis*. She conceded that the Coleopterorum Catalogue put *Absidia* as a subgenus of the genus *Podistra*, but she preferred to retain it in *Cantharis* pending future studies of the generic position. Unfortunately she never pursued it further. She described a new species as *Cantharis* (*Absidia*) *sierrae*. At that time, she had before her 2 males of a species that she provisionally determined as *C.* (*Absidia*) *insipida* (Fall), the type of which she had not seen. Up to the present time, our knowledge of the group has been confined to Fall's types of *insipida*, McKey-Fender's type and paratype of *sierrae*, and the 2 specimens she assigned to *insipida*, all males.

The collection of a series, including 2 females, of *insipida* invited an investigation into the proper position of that species as well as that of *sierrae*. This series was collected at The Pines Forest Camp, Lincoln Nat. For., New Mexico, 13-VII-68 by my son William and me. I have examined the type of *insipida* and confirmed that the series is conspecific with it. A female of *sierrae* is before me, collected at Camp Angelus, San Bernardino Mountains, California, 1-VII-70, Karl Stephan.

This investigation required the translation and study of the publications of Dr. W. Wittmer, Natural History Museum, Basel, Switzerland and those of Dr. N. Magis, University of Liege, Liege, Belgium, as well as correspondence with each. They were both most cooperative and helpful.

The *Podistra* group of the Cantharini may be recognized by the head rather long behind the eyes; eyes remote from the pronotum; mandibles simple; males slender; apical segment of the maxillary palpi with the inner angle obliterated; tarsi slender, third tarsal segment apically emarginate, insertion of the fourth segment ante-apical; all claws of both sexes simple or, at most, anterior claws of protarsi of males only with a short acute tooth, all other claws and all those of the female simple.

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KEY TO THE PODISTRA GROUP

1. All tarsal claws of both sexes simple............Genus *Pseudoabsidia* Wittmer
1′. Anterior protarsal claw of male with a blunt basal tooth, all other claws simple; all claws of female simple...Genus *Podistra* Motschulsky.................. 2

2(1′.) Wings and elytra of both sexes strongly abbreviated...Subgenus *Podistra* s. str.
2′. Wings and elytra of male entire...3.

3.(2′.) Wings and elytra of male entire, of female greatly abbreviated.................................... ....Subgenus *Hemipodistra* Ganglbauer
3′. Wings and elytra of both sexes entire...............Subgenus *Absidia* Mulsant

Despite Fall's statement that all claws are simple and McKey-Fender's acceptance of this, the males of *insipida* have the anterior claws of the protarsi with a blunt basal tooth. This places it in the genus *Podistra. P. sierrae* of McKey-Fender has all claws simple in both sexes as has the species she provisionally placed as *insipida*, placing them in the genus *Pseudoabsidia.*

McKey-Fender mentioned that the female of the European *Pseudoabsidia prolixa* (Mark.) is said to have the elytra greatly abbreviated. Both Magis and Wittmer agree that the female of the species has entire elytra.

Podistra (Hemipodistra) insipida (Fall), NEW COMBINATION

Telephorus insipidus Fall 1907:235.
Cantharis (Absidia) insipida, McKey-Fender 1950:77-78.

Dusky testaceous, sides of head behind antennae somewhat darker, eyes black, apical margins of abdominal sternites paler, pubescence brassy.

Male: Slender, parallel, length 8.5 to 10 mm, width at elytral humeri 2 to 2.5mm. Head wider than pronotum; eyes large and prominent; clypeus short, shining, very finely sparsely punctured, anterior margin oblique either side; head behind antennae more coarsely punctured; antennae filiform, slender, extending nearly to tips of elytra, second segment not quite half as long as third, segments 4 to 11 fully 5 times as long as wide. Pronotum longer than broad, shining, very finely sparsely punctured, a little more coarsely so along anterior margin; sides subparallel, shallowly sinuate toward anterior and basal margins, basal angles obtuse but evident, anterior angles wanting; disc with a finely impressed longitudinal median line, line not eroded, tumid each side posteriorly; sides rather deeply broadly impressed anteriorly, posterior margin narrowly reflexed; lower margin of pronotal epipleurae exserted towards middle to the extent that they are visible from directly above. Scutellum linguiform, finely, rather closely punctured. Elytra entire, covering abdomen, about 3.25 times as long as their combined widths at the humeri, about one-half wider than the pronotum, finely scabrous; elevated costae very fine and indistinct. Thorax beneath shining; finely sparsely punctured. Abdominal sternites more coarsely punctured and with fine transverse rugae. Tarsi slender; anterior claw of protarsi with a short blunt basal tooth (Fig. 1), all other claws simple (Fig. 2). Pubescence fine and inconspicuous, dual on the elytra with denser short depressed hair and sparser long erect hairs.

Female: More robust than male. Length 9.5 to 11mm, width at elytral humeri 2.5 to 3mm. Differing from the male in: eyes much smaller and less prominent; antennae shorter, extending to about base of second visible abdominal sternite, segments 4 to 11 about 3 times as long as wide; pronotum wider than long, wider than head, anterior angles evidenced although broadly rounded, exserted lower margin of epipleurae barely visible from above; elytra and wings greatly abbreviated, half again as long as combined widths at the humeri, leaving apical two and a half abdominal tergites exposed; last abdominal sternite as shown (Fig. 3); tarsi shorter, all claws simple.

Neallotype female: NEW MEXICO: The Pines Forest Camp, Lincoln Nat. For., 8750 feet, 13-VII-68, K. M. and W. M. Fender, [Cal. Acad. Sci.].

Pseudoabsidia sierrae (McKey-Fender), NEW COMBINATION
Cantharis (Absidia) sierrae McKey-Fender 1950: 76-77.

Piceous to black, basal antennal segment, pronotum, and scutellum yellow to orange yellow, head yellowish with sides behind eyes piceous, pubescence dusky testaceous.

Male: Slender, length 6.5mm, width at elytra humeri 1.5mm, antennal length 4mm. Head short in front of eyes, anterior margin of clypeus biarcuate, shining, front finely, sparsely punctured, closely more coarsely punctured behind; antennae moderately stout, less than two-thirds body length, second segment about one-third length of third, segments 4 to 7 less than 4 times as long as wide; eyes large, separated by a distance slightly greater than length of an eye. Pronotum subtransverse, slightly wider than head including eyes, posterior angles nearly rectangular, sides slightly wider anteriorly, feebly sinuate, slightly constricted behind indistinct and broadly rounded anterior angles and just anterior to basal angles; anterior margin shallowly convex medially; basal margin very finely convex, margins somewhat reflexed; disc shining, very finely sparsely punctured, tumid either side towards base, a moderately deep median longitudinal line between tumidities, pubescence very fine and sparse. Elytra moderately slender, combined width at the humeri nearly one-half again width of pronotum; scabrous, costae rather feebly elevated and dim, margins somewhat thickened; pubescence rather sparse, erect, dual, denser short hairs and sparser long hairs. Body beneath finely sparsely punctured, thorax shining, abdomen dull. Tarsi slender, all claws simple.

Female: similar to male, a little more robust, length 6.5mm, width at elytral humeri 2mm; eyes smaller and less prominent, separated by nearly twice the length of an eye; antennal segments 4 to 11 about 2.5 times as long as wide. Pronotum a little more transverse, nearly three-fourths as wide as elytra at the humeri. Elytra entire. Apical margin of last abdominal sternite as illustrated (Fig. 4). All claws simple. In the specimen at hand, basic color black, head and pronotum dark flavous, head feebly darkened at sides behind eyes, basal antennal segment pale medially, becoming black at both ends.

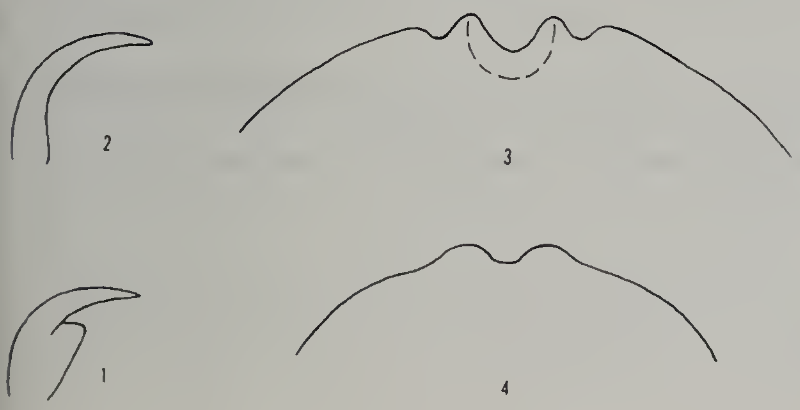

Fig. 1-3: *Podistra (Hemipodistra) insipida* (Fall); 1) toothed anterior protarsal claw of male, 2) simple claw. 3) apical margin of last sternite of female. Fig. 4: *Pseudoabsida sierrae* (McK.-Fend.), apical margin of last sternite of female.

Neallotype female: CALIFORNIA: Camp Angelus, San Bernardino Mts., 1-VII-70, Karl Stephan.

Pseudoabsidia sanbernardensis Fender, NEW SPECIES.

Cantharis (Absidia) insipida of McKey-Fender (not Fall) 1950:77-78.

Dusky testaceous; head in front of antennae and at sides behind eyes, all but basal segment of antennae, elytra, and tarsi a little darker, elytra becoming nearly piceous at the apices. Pubescence brassy.

Male: slender, length 5.25mm, width at elytral humeri 1.3mm. Head short in front of eyes, anterior margin of clypeus biarcuate, clypeus shining and finely sparsely punctured; eyes large and prominent, separated by a little more than length of an eye; antennae filiform, slender, extending nearly to tips of elytra, second segment about one-third length of third, segments 4 to 11 somewhat compressed, in lateral view appearing about 4 times as long as wide, in dorsal view over 5 times as long as wide; head behind antennae closely coarsely punctured. Pronotum shining, longer than wide, narrower than head including eyes, anterior angles obliterated, sides evenly curving into similarly arcuate and shallowly reflexed anterior margin; sides parallel and feebly bisinuate, pronotum constricted slightly just behind anterior angles and just anterior to basal angles, basal angles nearly rectangular, feebly prominent, basal margin narrowly convex and rather deeply guttered; disc finely sparsely punctured, tumid each side towards base, median longitudinal impressed line short and not eroded. Scutellum elongate, subtriangular, apically rounded, sparsely more coarsely punctured than pronotum. Elytra combined half again as wide as pronotum; coarsely sparsely punctured basally, becoming nugose beyond basal fourth; costae, if present, very evanescent. Thorax beneath shining, finely sparsely punctured. Abdominal sternites dull, finely sparsely punctured. Tarsi long and slender, all claws simple. Pubescence fine and sparse, dual on elytra with more dense erect short hairs and sparser erect long hairs.

Female: Unknown.

Holotype male: CALIFORNIA: Lake Arrowhead, 6-VII-41, G. P. Mackenzie, [Cal. Acad. Sci.]. *Paratypes*: CALIFORNIA: San Bernardino Co. Forest Home 18-VII-25; San Bernardino Co. (1), Camp Baldy, 26-VI-56

This species differs from *Pseudoabsidia sierrae* in color, the longer antennae, and the pronotum being longer than broad.

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